Docket No.: 4776-0102PUS1 (PATENT)

Confirmation No.: 8805

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Isamu MINOWA

Application No.: 10/575,264

Filed: April 10, 2006 Art Unit: N/A

For: PIPE JOINT Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir

Subsequent to the filing of the above-identified application on May 8, 2006, attached hereto is an English translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (Forms PCT/IB/326, PCT/IB/338, PCT/IB/373, PCT/ISA/237) that should be made of record in the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Paul C. Lewis

Registration No.: 43,368

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000